

Democrats, of course, present voter ID laws as an attempt to suppress votes by forcing people to go through a challenging process of obtaining a government ID. I have to ask if Democrats also think laws requiring ID to drive are somehow discriminatory. We constantly require photo identification in our society to drive, to board planes, to enter many government buildings, to pick up tickets to Major League baseball games. These requirements are pretty universally accepted. It is difficult to understand how requiring identification to vote is so outrageous. The American people don't seem to think so. Polls show that a majority of Americans support voter ID laws.

In addition to effectively eliminating State voter ID requirements, H.R. 1 also requires that States allow ballot harvesting, the controversial practice of allowing political operatives to collect and submit ballots. Needless to say, ballot harvesting opens up a lot of questions about voter fraud and election integrity, but the Democrats' bill would require it.

As I mentioned, Democrats introduced an almost identical version of H.R. 1 in the last Congress, and—get this—the ACLU opposed it. The ACLU opposed it. That is right. The American Civil Liberties Union opposed it. Why? Because the bill would “unconstitutionally burden speech and associational rights.” Unconstitutionally burden speech and associational rights. H.R. 1 would impose a vast new array of restrictions on political speech and issue advocacy, and it would impose disclosure requirements for organizations that would open up donors to retaliation and intimidation.

I could fill up several speeches with a discussion of all the bad provisions in this bill. H.R. 1 would turn the FEC, the Federal Election Commission, into a partisan body. It would require taxpayer funding of political campaigns. Taxpayer dollars would go to fund bumper stickers and political ads. It would allow the IRS to deny tax-exempt status to organizations whose positions it doesn't like and on and on.

Then there is the fact that on a purely practical level, this bill would be a disaster. A recent Daily Beast article highlighted the onerous and impossible-to-meet requirements the bill imposes on conducting elections. To quote the Daily Beast, another media outlet not exactly known for its favoritism toward conservative Republicans, the bill “was written with apparently no consultation with election administrators, and it shows . . . it comes packed with deadlines and requirements election administrators cannot possibly meet without throwing their systems into chaos.”

The article goes on to say:

The sections of the bill relating to voting systems . . . show remarkably little understanding of the problems the authors apply alarmingly prescriptive solutions to. Many of the changes the bill demands of election administrators are literally impossible to implement.

That, again, is from the Daily Beast. Like the Democrats' Supreme Court power grab, H.R. 1 is a solution in search of a problem. Protecting the right to vote and preserving the integrity of our election systems are essential. While we are fortunate that our electoral system by and large seems to be operating well, there are certainly measures that we can take up to further enhance election integrity. H.R. 1 is not one of those measures. This legislation is an unacceptable Federal takeover of elections that would undermine election integrity and substantially curtail First Amendment rights. Every single Member of Congress should be opposing it.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Gupta nomination be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 62, Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Tammy Duckworth, Alex Padilla, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Tim Kaine, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Gary C. Peters, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher Murphy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 159 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hassan	Murphy
Bennet	Heinrich	Murray
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Booker	Hirono	Padilla
Brown	Kaine	Peters
Cantwell	Kelly	Reed
Cardin	King	Rosen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sanders
Casey	Leahy	Schatz
Coons	Lujan	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Shaheen
Duckworth	Markey	Sinema
Durbin	Menendez	Smith
Feinstein	Merkley	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Tester

Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren

Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Blunt	Hagerty	Rounds
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Portman	

(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). On this vote, we have 51 yeas and 49 nays.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Texas.

NOMINATION OF VANITA GUPTA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as my friend the Republican leader likes to remind us, the Senate is not just a legislative body; we are also in the personnel business. One of the Senate's core responsibilities is to provide advice and consent for the President's nominees for a range of important jobs throughout the Federal Government. In fact, it is a constitutional duty of the Senate to perform that function.

When the President is of the opposing party, there is all but a guarantee that you will not see eye to eye with every nominee, but the process isn't just about politics or judging nominees based on whether their opinions align with your own. As I see it, we are charged with evaluating these individuals to see if they are qualified not only to carry out the duties of their position but will also do so with honor and integrity.

Take Attorney General Merrick Garland, for example. When the Senate considered his nomination, it became clear that he had both the experience and the temperament to lead the Department of Justice. Do we agree on everything? No. But he committed to do everything in his power to keep politics out of the Department of Justice, and I have no reason to doubt his credibility.

The same could be said of the President's nominee for Deputy Attorney General, Lisa Monaco, who was confirmed yesterday by the Senate. Ms. Monaco is a longtime public servant who previously served for 15 years at the Department of Justice. Throughout her career, she has earned the respect of folks on both sides of the aisle, and I believe she will bring a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge to the Department.

So my point is, I have supported the majority of President Biden's nominees thus far, and every single nominee has received bipartisan support at some level. But unfortunately, it looks like we are about ready to break that record of bipartisanship.

Today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Vanita Gupta to serve as